

# EPD

continued from page 1

City Manager Dennis Taylor said such alleged behavior would not be tolerated within EPD. He said he also felt that the trust between EPD and the community had been damaged.

"When that trust is compromised, the trust the community has in every officer is compromised," Taylor said.

The charges against Lara arose from three separate incidents that occurred in the past two years.

EPD learned of the initial allegation on July 7 after an unidentified person who knew one of the alleged victims contacted the Lane County district attorney's office.

Investigators determined that in two of the incidents, Lara met two of the women after responding to calls at both their homes. Buchanan said Lara allegedly used his position of authority while on duty

and in uniform to initiate sexual contact with the women. Lara allegedly contacted the two other women while on duty during a third incident after the women left a downtown bar, Buchanan said.

Lara's attorney, Dan Koenig, said his client has been very cooperative during the course of the investigation.

Koenig said Lara, a married father of two boys, was "devastated" when he learned he was a suspect in EPD's investigation.

Koenig said none of the women ever reported the alleged incidents to police and all three of those incidents would be months or years old. Koenig stated that all incidents were voluntary in nature and that nothing criminal had occurred.

Official misconduct implies that the women received some benefit from Lara in exchange for sexual favors, Koenig said. Sexual abuse and coercion require a threat of violence or force.

"We deny that anything of that sort occurred," Koenig said.

Koenig said his client is also being treated much more harshly than other people in a similar situation, and that Lara's bail was set at an unusually high amount. He added that Lara was arrested in front of his family.

"These actions are just ridiculous," Koenig said. "He's being treated differently, but not to his benefit."

EPD is continuing its unrelated criminal investigation involving Magana.

On June 10, a woman reported to police an alleged episode of inappropriate sexual contact involving Magana. Investigators said they have identified several potential female victims describing sexual contact with Magana while he was on duty. EPD also believes there is a likelihood of additional victims, Buchanan said.

Buchanan asked anyone with any information regarding either case contact EPD Sgt. Scott McKee, lead investigator, at 682-8888.

Contact the reporter at shoikeda@dailymerald.com.

# Football

continued from page 1

Oregon is more set on who will guard the line. Defensive linemen Igor Olshansky and Haloti Ngata return as the two starters, and through the advertisements and hype, the duo are ready for what's to come.

"I feel a lot of pressure, absolutely," Olshansky said. "Haloti and I are ready for the pressure. Holt's got a year under his belt, I've got two years under my belt, and we want to dominate this level and help our team."

Although the linebackers lack experience after the loss of starters David Morretti and Garret Graham, senior


Kevin Mitchell is back for his final season and is confident about where he and his team need to be.

"Physically, we are at the point where we want to be," Mitchell said. "We got guys that got stronger. It's just a matter of having that desire to go out and win, and working hard everyday and doing the little things to make our defense, offense and special teams where they need to be to be successful."

In an effort to build on what was a 7-6 season and reverse one of the worst slumps in the past 11 years, the Ducks' first Q&A session begins Aug. 30 at Mississippi State.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailymerald.com

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**Oregon Daily Emerald** P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403  
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